

### Nearby Attractions

- Circle K Horse Pavilion, Cookeville, 9 miles
- Historic Downtown Sparta, 8 miles
- Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness Area, 8 miles
- Appalachian Center for Crafts, Smithville, 22 miles

### Other Nearby State Parks

- Edgar Evins  
16 miles
- Rock Island  
20 miles

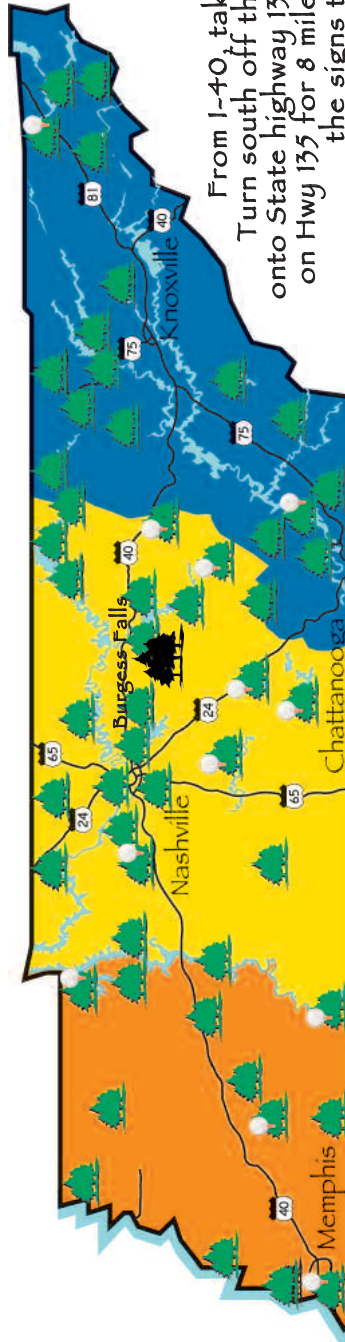
### Annual Events

- Putnam County Fair August
- White County Fair, September
- Butterfly Garden Celebration  
2nd Saturday each August



[www.tdec.net/swm/oil](http://www.tdec.net/swm/oil)

Thanks to Our  
Proud Sponsors



From I-40, take Exit 286.  
Turn south off the 286 ramp  
onto State highway 135. Proceed  
on Hwy 135 for 8 miles following  
the signs to the park.

### Hours of Operation:

Park and gates are open daily 8:00 a.m. C.S.T. until 30 minutes before sunset when gates are closed. Park is closed when the river is high or when there is snow on the roads and/or trails.

### For Further Information, Contact:

Burgess Falls State Natural Area / 4000 Burgess Falls Drive / Sparta, TN 38583  
Phone (931) 452-5312

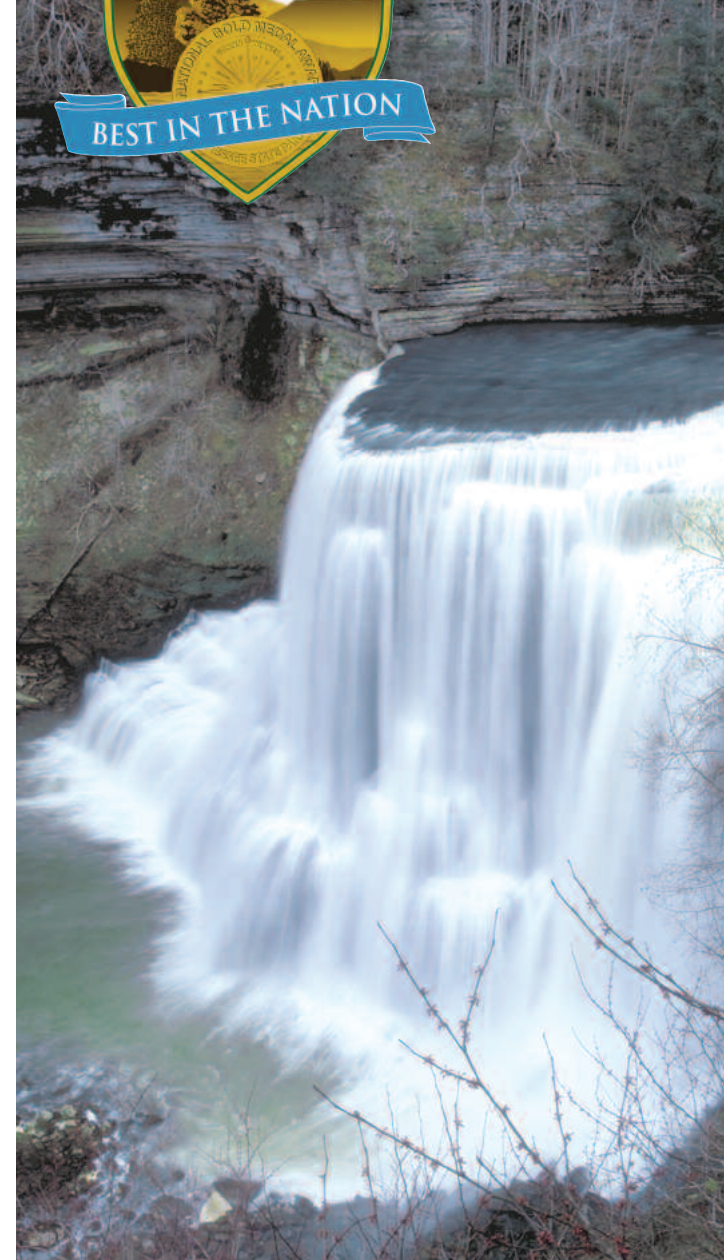
Or Contact: Tennessee State Parks / 401 Church St., 7th Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243 / Phone (888) 867-2757 [www.tnstateparks.com](http://www.tnstateparks.com)



Tennessee Department of Environment and  
Conservation authorization no. 327192, 10,000  
copies. This public document was promulgated  
at a cost of \$.04 per copy, July 2008.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access and affirmative action. Contact the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation EEO/AA coordinator at (888) 867-2757 or the ADA Coordinator at (615) 592-0059 for further information. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service at (800) 848-0288.

# TENNESSEE STATE PARKS BURGESS FALLS STATE NATURAL AREA







### Burgess Falls State Natural Area

is located on the eastern edge of the Highland Rim. The main attractions are the four waterfalls on the Falling Water River and the overlooks providing spectacular scenery. The waterfalls begin near the main parking lot. There are a variety of waterfalls ranging from 136 ft high to a 20-foot high cascade of smaller waterfalls. The park is home to over 300 species trees and plants and an abundance of wildlife. Park visitors can visit the Native Butterfly Garden located adjacent to the upper parking lot.

### Historical significance

The history of Burgess Falls can be traced back over three centuries. Before European settlement, Indians of the Cherokee, Creek, and Chickasaw tribes shared this region as a hunting ground. One of the first white settlers, Thomas Burgess, received a land grant here in 1793 as payment for his service in the Revolutionary War. By the late 19th century, a gristmill and sawmill were in operation on the river here. For the growing logging and farming communities, the Falling Water River played a key role by providing energy and recreational opportunities. Under protection as a State Natural Area since 1973, visitors today may enjoy the same scenic splendor of Burgess Falls, easily seen from the River Trail.

### Picnic Pavilions and Playgrounds

The park has 16 open sites with tables, grills, toilet facilities and playground facilities. The picnic pavilion is capable of handling 80 people. The Pavilion requires reservations. Call park office for reservations for up to 12 months in advance.

### Park Office

Park Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. central standard time Monday – Friday, year round.

### Fishing

Fishing is year-round. Most common are the large and small mouth bass, brim, and carp. Most popular fishing sites are along the lake, below the dam and below the main falls. Tennessee fishing license is required.

### Hiking

The main 1.5-mile round-trip river trail takes you past four waterfalls on the Falling Water River. The waterfalls are 20, 30, 80, and 136 feet in height. The 1-mile Ridge Top Trail is very scenic with views down the main canyon of the Falling Water River.

### Planned Programs

Park staff offers year round interpretive programs. These programs are for adults and children. Curriculum based programs are provided for schools and are offered on and off-site. Programs are also provided for private groups upon request and availability of staff.

